

## Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /074 W

----- 014503

R 051431Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4073

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF UN SG US

SUBJ: SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER REACTS TO PROSPECT OF US  
"REPRISAL" OVER UN VOTING

1. DURING MARCH 3 PRESS CONFERENCE BY SENEGALESE FOREIGN  
MINISTER ASSANE SECK, JOURNALIST STATED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER  
HAD ANNOUNCED THAT US WOULD TAKE REPRISALS AGAINST COUNTRIES  
WHICH VOTED FOR UNGA RESOLUTION DETERMINING ZIONISM TO BE  
FORM OF RACISM. HE ASKED SECK WHAT SENEGAL'S REACTION WOULD BE  
IF US APPLIED MEASURES OF REPRISAL.

2. SECK RESPONDED THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD TAKEN CLEAR  
POSITION ON THAT AFFAIR, IN INDICATING THAT SENEGALESE ACTION  
WAS BASED ON PRINCIPLE. SENEGAL DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN TWO  
ASPECTS OF ZIONISM: ONE ASPECT IS THAT OF "JUDAISM,"

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WHICH RESEMBLES "NEGRITUDE" IN THAT IT DEFINES (IDENTITY OF)

JEWISH PEOPLE; OTHER ASPECT CONSISTS OF EXPANSION AND AGGRESSION AGAINST OTHERS. SECK DECLARED THAT, AS LONG AS SECOND ASPECT PERSISTED, SENEGAL WILL NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION, "WHATEVER THREATS OR ACTION ARE TAKEN AGAINST IT."

3. SECK SUGGESTED THAT SENEGAL ENJOYED REPUTATION AS RESPONSIBLE (SERIEUX) COUNTRY AND SAID "WE HAVE A DUTY--ESPECIALLY YOU YOUNG PEOPLE--TO MAINTAIN THIS PRESTIGE BY THE DIGNITY EXPRESSED IN OUR BEHAVIOR AND BY THE COURAGE TO SAY NO WHEN IT IS NECESSARY TO SAY NO AND TO SAY YES WHEN IT IS NECESSARY TO SAY YES. WE ARE A LITTLE COUNTRY OF ONLY FOUR MILLION INHABITANTS. THERE ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE MANY MORE. BUT SENEGAL ENJOYS A PRESTIGE AND REPUTATION IN THE WORLD OUT OF PROPORTION TO ITS POPULATION. THIS REPUTATION HAS BEEN EARNED BY THE DIGNITY EXPRESSED IN SENEGAL'S COURAGE AND SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE."

4. COMMENT: SUBJECT WAS ONLY NON-AFRICAN MATTER RAISED DURING LENGTHY PRESS CONFERENCE OTHERWISE DEVOTED TO ISSUES ARISING DURING RECENT OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. MEASURED PRECISION AND INTENSITY WITH WHICH SECK DELIVERED THESE REMARKS SET THEM NOTICEABLY APART FROM CONVERSATIONAL RESPONSES TO MORE CONVENTIONAL QUESTIONS ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. CONTEXT MADE CLEAR THAT "YOUNG PEOPLE" WHOM SECK CHARGED PARTICULARLY WITH DUTY OF UPHOLDING SENEGAL'S DIGNITY WERE SELECT GROUP OF JOURNALISTS ASSEMBLED IN HIS OFFICE FOR PRESS CONFERENCE. CURIOUSLY, DAKAR DAILY LE SOLEIL OBSCURED SIGNIFICANCE OF PAR. 3 ABOVE BY REPORTING IT OUT OF CONTEXT IN DIFFERENT PORTION OF PRESS CONFERENCE.  
AGGREY

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